(v) Procedural changes have been made in the international price reimbursement and the scheme has been extended to cover all categories of steel, including alloy steels;

(vi) The Import-Export Pass Book Scheme has been introduced with effect from 1st Jan, 1986 for the manufacturers/exporters with a view to provide easy access to duty free imports for export production.

Seizure of Heroin

608. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of heroin (with value) seized in different parts of the country during 1985 and how does it compare with the quantity (with value) seized during 1984;

(b) whether with the increase in the smuggling of heroin in the country which has virtually become a transit country for the illegal trade, Government have taken up the question with the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Nepal and also U.K. and USA. to check the growing trade of heroin the sub-continent, which has assumed disturbing dimensions; and

(c) if so, the level at which the problem was discussed with the neighbouring countries as also with U.K. and USA and the measure contemplated by Government to put an end to this growing menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) There has been a sharp increase in the quantity of heroin seized in different parts of the country during 1985 which was about 764·185 kg. (provisional) as against 202·593 k g. of the drug seized during 1984. No precise value of the drug seized can be furnished as the illicit market price varies widely depending on the time and place of seizure, purity of the drug, local demand and supply position, etc,

(b) and(c) India has been increasingly facing the problem of transit traffic in drugs in recent year, mainly from the Near and Middle East Region and destined to western countries. The matter has been taken up in the meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission and both sides have agreed to exchange information and to undertake investigation on mutual request. Similarly, the question of preventing of smuggling of drugs (mainly ganja) across the Indo-Nepal border is discussed in the bilateral talks with that country for taking appropriate action.

In addition to appropriate anti-smuggling measure taken in-coordination with the Central and State Government authorities concerned, close co-operation with the international agencies concerned and also with the drug law enforcement agencies of U.S.A., U.K., etc. is maintained to curb smuggling of durgs.

The Governments of India and U.S.A. have also agreed to establish a Narcotics Working Group for increased co-operation in the area of narcotics control.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, which has been brought into force with effect from 14-11-1985, provides for deterrent punishments for drug-trafficking offences.

India's trade with African countries

609. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that of late India's trade with certain African